

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Bad Freienwalde

619079

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

29 March 1964

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED  
Information

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1. Between 15 February and 4 March 1964, the Panzer Kaserne in Bad Freienwalde (4001) was still occupied by an estimated 2,000 troops. Soldiers observed wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank, artillery or motor transport insignia. Troops seemed to predominantly practice in the training area near Rathsdorf, from where firing was occasionally heard. Four times during the period of observation, each three armored half-track vehicles mounting twin-barreled AA guns were observed moving to Rathsdorf from the direction of the barracks installation. 2 or 3 T-34 tanks daily practiced in the Rathsdorf area. A telephone section of 1 officer and about 20 troops were occasionally observed stringing lines in the area west of Freienwalde. On 22 February, a group of 15 soldiers practiced with 1 heavy machine gun, 1 battery commander's telescope and 2 field telephones in the Weinberg training area near the town. Each Sunday during the period of observation, a column of about 10 officers and 250 recruits, accompanied by a military band, marched through town and later returned to the barracks installation. 25X1

2. Between 3 and 4 p.m. on 4 March, about 25 trucks moved toward the Freienwalde railroad station from the direction of the barracks installation at long intervals. Six of the trucks towed ZIS 76.2-mm field guns and three carried 4 x 82-mm mortars each.

Each of the trucks carried about 10 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets and caps with a white disk-shaped badge, of about 5 cm in diameter, and were equipped with small arms and light field pack. It could not be determined whether the troops were loaded.

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3. On 4 March, the Panzer Kaserne in Bad Freienwalde quartered an estimated 1,200 to 1,400 troops. Soldiers observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery or tank insignia. Materiel identified in the barracks area included 4 three-axle armored personnel carriers, 2 two-axle armored personnel carriers, 1 half-track vehicles mounting a twin-barreled AA gun, T-34/85 tanks and 5 tank trucks, 1 tank trailer, 8 x 76.2-mm field guns and 1 light mortar. About 200 soldiers engaged in combat firing practice, field training, training with mortars, gun drill and close-order drill. Construction material allegedly for new buildings, arrived at the installation.

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Comment. The loading, which probably involved units of the 16th Gds Mech Regt of the 6th Gds Mech Div, was previously reported [redacted]. The troops were possibly transferred to field exercises in the area southeast of Mueritz Lake. [redacted]

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